

QUESTION: How much time is EPA Region 7 Superfund staff spending on the creation of the isolation barrier versus the Record of Decision Amendment? Meaning, has the need for the isolation barrier taken away time and resources on the ROD Amendment?

ANSWER:

Work is progressing concurrently on both activities to ensure the protection of public health. Significant resources have been devoted to evaluating options for the isolation barrier. As the resource demands of the site have increased, EPA has augmented its resources by bringing in ORD, USGS, and USACE. Even though EPA has devoted resources to the isolation barrier, EPA remains focused on selection of a final remedy.

QUESTION: What is the path for the ROD Amendment moving forward? What we know is:

- 1. EPA Region needs to finalize and approve the Supplemental Supplemental Feasibility Study Work Plan**
- 2. PRPs need to create the SSFS according to the EPA Region 7 approved Work Plan and then submit the SSFS back to EPA Region 7**
- 3. Likely back-and-forth between EPA Region 7 and the PRPs regarding the Work Plan**
- 4. NRRB reviews SSFS/SFS and makes a recommendation for the ROD Amendment?**
- 5. EPA Region 7 issues ROD Amendment**
- 6. Public Commenting Period**
- 7. ROD Amendment finalized**

ANSWER:

The path to the ROD Amendment is:

- EPA approve SSFS Work Plans
- PRP prepares SSFS Reports
- EPA reviews the SSFS Reports
- USACE conducts Independent Technical Review (ITR) of the SSFS Reports
- PRP revisions as needed
- EPA approval of SSFS Reports
- SFS Addendum prepared by PRP
- EPA review of SFS Addendum
- USACE conducts ITR of SFS Addendum
- EPA prepares Proposed Plan
- EPA presents new Proposed Plan to National Remedy Review Board
- Public Comment period, public meeting

- EPA prepares ROD Amendment and Responsiveness Summary

QUESTION: Can EPA provide a list of activities currently being worked and schedule for completion?

ANSWER:

EPA publishes the Path Ahead to communicate progress on the current activities, and to illustrate the relative order of events for upcoming milestones. EPA intends to update and publish this document monthly. However, schedules are difficult to predict due to the various complexities of this project. Certain milestones will have schedules included as part of a work plan (ex. SSFS Reports and design submittals).

Specifically, the following activities are currently underway:

- Preconstruction activities associated with the isolation barrier
- Evaluation of isolation barrier reports
- Offsite air monitoring
- USGS groundwater review report
- General activities related to the SSFS and selection of a final remedy